

REMARKS

Claims 8-27 are presently in the case. Claims 8 and 19-27 have been amended.

Claims 8-15 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kato et al.

Claims 16-18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of Lambert et al. ('702).

Claims 19-27 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. in view of Lambert et al. ('407).

Reference is made to the Office action for the detailed discussion provided by the examiner.

Claim 8 is the only independent claim in the case. Accordingly, remarks will primarily be directed to claim 8.

Claim 8 has been amended to include, inter alia, recitation of a first annular groove provided on the injector housing, a second annular groove provided on the radially outer valve element and that the fuel outlet conduits provided on the housing are linear.

Reference is made to application drawing Figure 6 and the associated specification for the disclosure corresponding to the amended claims.

Upon reviewing the Kato et al. reference, it is clear that the embodiment shown in Figures 23 and 24 has a double-seat valve element. In the position of the valve element 3 shown in Figure 23, fuel is led through channel 22 into outlet conduit 7 in order to create a swirl type fuel flow when the valve element 3 is further lifted from the valve seat, fuel flows directly into the dual outlet conduit 7.

The amendment to claim 8 recites that the fuel outlet conduits are "linear". This distinguishes from the conduit 22, 7 of Kato et al. The claim further recites that the fuel outlet conduits extend from the annular groove in the housing. This further distinguishes from Kato et al.

Further, any proposed combination of Kato et al. and Lambert et al. ('407) is not well taken. There is a significant gap at the truncated lower end of Lambert's outer needle 1 that leaves a gap between seating surface 13 and inner needle valve 17. Thus, the addition of an annular groove in either needle 1 or the housing 10 of Lambert et al. ('407) would serve no useful purpose. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion to combine Lambert et al. and Kato et al. to include a needle structure as shown in Lambert in Kato or to include annular grooves in Lambert in view of Kato.

Similarly, none of the other references of record, including Lambert et al. ('702) disclose, teach or suggest the claimed combination as recited in amended claim 8.

Claims 19-27 have been amended to provide editorial consistency with amended claim 8.

Claims 9-27 depend upon claim 8 and are allowable at least for the reasons advanced regarding claim 8 above.

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Armdt. dated May 16, 2007
Reply to Office action of Feb. 26, 2007

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Greigg', written over a circular stamp or seal.

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